

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIV, Issue No. 230

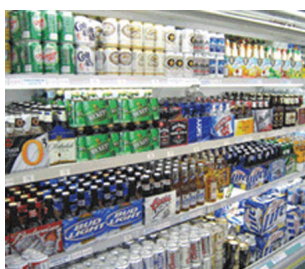
TUESDAY AUGUST 17, 2004

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## INSIDE



### Dolphin Expands

Dolphin Wholesale said it will be phasing out its grocery section as part of plans to expand its department store component and to accommodate more furniture stocks in the entire business premises in San Jose.

Page 8



### In The Aftermath

Residents left homeless by Hurricane Charley's 145 mph winds dug through their ravaged homes on Sunday, sweeping up shattered glass and rescuing what they could as President Bush promised rapid delivery of disaster aid.

Page 13



### Big Trucks

Automakers spend small fortunes to style their trucks, but for guys like Bud Berotti, the manufacturers' efforts are just blank canvases, spending small fortunes of their own to make their vehicles unique.

Page 19

## Zero funding for seaport security

### Saipan seaport yet to get federal funds since 9/11

By LIBERTY DONES  
REPORTER



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### SNAKE MEETS WITH VILLAGERS

Nathaniel B. Hawley, a herpetologist with the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife's Brown Tree Snake program, holds a live brown tree snake during an education campaign at the Tanapag village hall Sunday morning. DFW has stepped up its efforts to ensure that the islands remain free of snake infestation by conducting village presentations.

## Entry permit for elderly tourists gets just one applicant—for now

By AGNES E. DONATO  
REPORTER

Only one Japanese tourist has been given a comity entry permit since the Division of Immigration started issuing CEPs to eligible senior citizens visiting the Commonwealth.

Acting Immigration director Anto-

nio Sablan yesterday said the sole CEP holder on island arrived on the first weekend of August.

"He was initially given a regular visitor entry permit, but his stay was extended to 90 days after it was found that he met the requirements for the CEP," Sablan said.

He noted that most senior citizens who are seeking to enter the Commonwealth

right now apply for short-term entry permits. But the number of CEP applicants is expected to increase during the winter season, when older people from the Commonwealth's prime tourism markets—Japan and Korea—normally seek to stay on island for a longer period.

Eligible for a comity entry permit are

See ENTRY on Page 12

## NMC enrollment posts slight increase

By AGNES E. DONATO  
REPORTER

Despite problems with scholarship funds, the Northern Marianas College posted a slim increase in its enrollment for the fall semester.

Kurt Barnes, dean of student development, said a total of 1,236 students have

registered as of yesterday morning, when classes opened for academic year 2004-2005. The number of enrollees was slightly greater than the 1,233 students who registered at the community college for fall last year.

Barnes said at least 100 more students are expected to enlist until Wednesday, the last day of registration.

He attributed the increased enrollment to "better marketing and recruiting efforts on the part of the college." NMC sent recruiting teams to various high schools on island before the end of the previous academic year, he noted.

The problem with the Pell grant, he added, apparently had no impact on the

See NMC on Page 12

Saipan seaport has not received any federal funding to improve its facilities since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Seaport manager Antonio Cabrera said in an interview yesterday that his office had submitted a \$1.4-million security improvement grant application as early as 2002 but no such funding has arrived up to now.

"Well, we know that it's a process. You can't get it overnight," said Cabrera.

He said, though, that the \$1.4 million is urgently needed to address key security concerns at the seaport.

"It will be used to upgrade security equipment such as monitors. It will be used for fence construction and several other items to improve safety and security at the port," said Cabrera.

Cabrera said that his office has implemented cost-cutting measures to ensure that certain security issues are addressed.

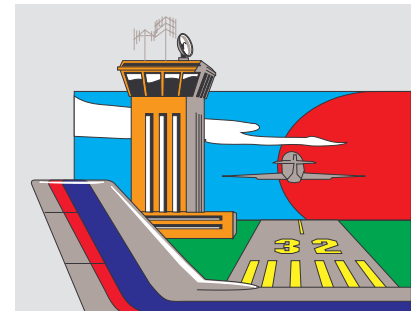
"We've used our own budget to address certain things," he said.

The Saipan seaport had completed its facility security plan way before the Dec. 31, 2003 submission deadline.

Cabrera said the document had been submitted to the U.S. Coast Guard, which then submitted it to the Homeland Security Department in Washington D.C.

The report, which would translate into federal funding assistance beginning this year, would ensure the port's compliance

See ZERO on Page 12



## \$6.8M airport upgrade underway

By LIBERTY DONES  
REPORTER

A \$6.8-million security improvement project that intends to provide travelers a more comfortable baggage inspection and check-in processing at the Saipan International Airport is now underway.

The project will convert the exist-

See \$6.8M on Page 12



## Local

# Shell says it has resolved gas concerns

Shell Marianas announced yesterday that a problem in its regular unleaded gasoline that caused mistakes in the fuel gauge readings of some cars on Saipan has already been resolved.

Shell Marianas president Phil Stalker, in a statement issued yesterday from the Shell corporate

office in Saipan, said: "As we indicated last week, Shell detected a fuel composition problem with regular unleaded gasoline available on Saipan, that caused fuel gauges in a few makes and models of automobiles to malfunction. In response, Shell immediately took steps to treat all

of its inventory and the problem has been resolved."

If customers are still experiencing difficulties with their gas gauges and they consider themselves Shell customers, Stalker said they should call 323-0647 and a customer service representative will explain the ap-

propriate next step to resolving each customer's concerns.

"Again, I would like to thank our customers for their patience during this episode and we look forward to continuing to be Saipan's Station of Choice," Stalker said.

Earlier, Mobil Oil Mariana

Islands Inc. also assured motorists that its regular unleaded gasoline are being treated to prevent faulty fuel gauge readings on some vehicle makes and models.

Mobil said it has secured additives to address the high level of sulfur in its regular unleaded gasoline, which had resulted in complaints of faulty fuel gauge readings on certain vehicles. The additive does not affect engine performance, according to Mobil.

Cecile Bamba Suda, Mobil's public affairs manager, said that, although elevated sulfur levels led to faulty fuel gauge readings in certain vehicles, the problem did not affect vehicle performance and safety. She said the fuel supply was compliant with regulated standards at all times.

"Fuel level sensors in vehicle gasoline tanks rely on the conductivity of a metal strip. Some



automobile manufacturers use a 'silver strip.' This particular strip can be very sensitive to the presence of free sulfur which reacts with the silver and may affect the operation of the sensor so that the fuel gauge no longer indicates the correct level of gasoline in the tank," Suda explained.

Reports said there were motorists who experienced the problem, whose vehicles unexpectedly ran out of fuel.

Mobil customers experiencing faulty fuel gauge readings may report the problem at 483-3367.

shell back to school  
CMYK

## Conference on health and safety opens today

By LIBERTY DONES  
REPORTER

Local and federal government leaders, business executives, and occupational health and safety experts will gather today for the three-day Governor's Safety and Health conference.

Led by Gov. Juan N. Babauta and regional Occupational Safety and Health Administration chief Frank Strasheim, the conference will focus on identified issues such as fire prevention, evacuation, food safety, and sanitation.

The three-day conference includes breakout sessions to tackle different issues.

Sessions scheduled for today are food-borne illnesses, food sanitation, and construction safety standards.

Public Health Secretary James U. Hofschneider is scheduled to talk this morning on "what you need to know if you manage food service for your workforce, tourists, or your facility."

In the afternoon, OSHA representatives will tackle key construction safety issues such as material handling and storage, fire protection, hazardous materials, hazard communication, and personal protective equipment.

A module is designed primarily for public sector managers,

teachers, firemen, police officers, industrial hygienists, airline employees, and health care professionals to discuss weapon of mass destruction, respirators, hazwoper, noise, lead and asbestos, heat stress and sun safety, tuberculosis, blood-borne pathogens, and the like.

Tomorrow's sessions focus on fire prevention, suppression, and evacuation, improving public safety for workers, and continuation of training tracks on construction safety standards.

Thursday's topics include safe drinking water, module 2 for fire prevention, and the construction safety standards.

Authorities earlier said that participants to the training courses will receive certificates after the three-day conference.

The conference, which will be held at the Dai-Ichi Hotel Saipan Beach, starts today at 8am.

"We had a very successful conference last year and we're looking forward to making this year as successful, if not even more successful, than last year," Babauta said.

Conference sponsor Northern Marianas Alliance for Safety and Health said it expects a larger audience this time with its greater focus on certification for the sessions' attendees.

Last year, the conference was attended by about 200 participants.

*Island Snapshots*

The Saipan Tribune accepts contributed pictures of birthdays, weddings, baptisms, and other community and family events for free publication. Material submitted should be original and not copyrighted, in digital or print format. Must include a caption containing complete details (a description of the event, identities of the persons in the picture, the date, and the place), the name of the contributor, and a contact number. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to edit the caption, the date of publication and the size of the picture. Contributors can e-mail their submissions to editor.tribune@gtepacifica.net. To check if contributions are received, call 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747.

crees

HEROES



COMMUNITY Briefs

No classes today at HJHS

Hopwood Junior High School wants to inform all parents and students there will be no classes today, Aug. 17. Teachers will be in a Professional Development Seminar School will resume tomorrow.

PSS to buy local fruit and vegetables

Are you a farmer who would like to sell vegetables or fruit to the Public School System? The Nutrition experts at PSS want to buy more local produce for the school cafeterias.

Farmers, here is your chance to meet face to face with the people who decide what foods the school cafeterias will buy.

Please meet the schools’ nutritionists and food caterers on Tuesday, Aug. 17, at 3pm. The location is Northern Marianas College CREES in Building F. Call 287-0561 or 234-5498 Ext. 1709.

EMO website offline

The website of the Emergency Management Office is currently out of service due to technical difficulties.

“We’re are working with our web server to rectify the problem. Once the website is up and operational, we will be issuing out another public notice. We are sorry for the inconvenience this may have caused you and we ask for your patience and understanding in this matter,” the office said in a statement.

For more information, call 322-8001/36.

Renewal, issuance of military ID cards

The Family Readiness Group of the Echo Company 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry would like to inform all Reservists and families of the following about the issuance and/or renewal of military ID cards on Aug. 17-20 at the Reserve Center in Puerto Rico .

Families of active, Reserve or veteran soldier(s) should get a new or renew their military ID cards at the Reserve Center.

For more information, call Cil Blas/FRG Leader at 323-4675 (evenings).

AmeriCorps recruiting 34 members

The Public School System’s AmeriCorps program—a federally funded program—is currently recruiting 34 members to participate in the community service and educational program.

AmeriCorps members will provide tutoring and mentoring services to CNMI youths between the ages of 6-17 at various youth centers. Members will assist students during structured youth center activities that may include homework assistance, arts/crafts, sports activities/events, computer trainings, etc.

Members will be awarded a living stipend for 900 hours served; and educational award of \$2,362 after successful completion of program; developmental trainings and workshops; and satisfaction of serving the youth and community in the CNMI.

Those who want to participate in the program should be U.S. citizens, at least 17 years old, a high school graduate, and is drug free and possesses a clean police clearance.

Application and proof of eligibility requirements must be submitted by Aug. 18, 2004.

For applications, contact AmeriCorps Program, CNMI Public School System Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Office, Retirement Fund Building, 2nd Floor, Capitol Hill, Saipan; or call 664-3716/32; or email tenoriod@pss.cnmi.mp.

Liberation Day raffle winners

The Liberation Day Committee has announced the names and numbers of winning tickets. To claim your prizes, call or visit Margaret Palacios at the Supreme Court (236-9700). To claim your prizes, you must show your ticket stubs.

1st prize	016705	RP Construction	\$4000
2nd prize	021510	Cathy Tebit	\$2000
3rd prize	025971	No Name	\$1000
4th prize	015301	Jim Whitt	\$900
5th prize	022933	P Seman	\$800
6th prize	025817	No Name	\$700
7th prize	019721	Ladore	\$600
8th prize	022713	No Name	\$500
9th prize	002014	J Sablan	\$400
10th prize	020348	No Name	\$300
11th prize	025058	M R Ayuyu	\$200
12th prize	017984	Jerrika	\$100

Torres offers free notarial services

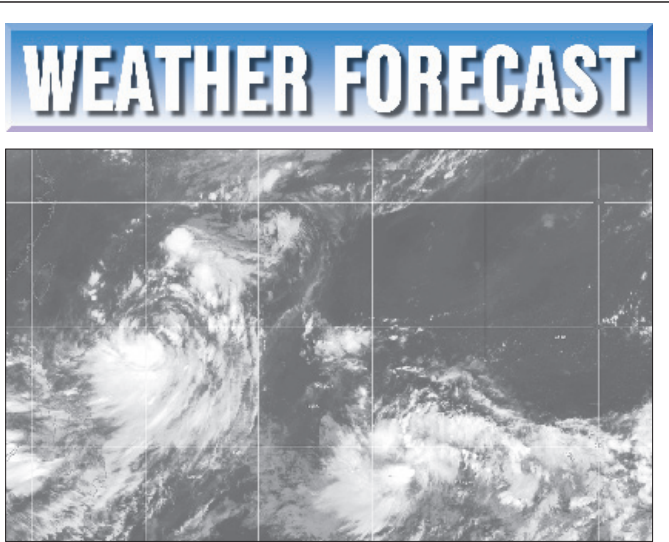
Former congressman Stanley T. Torres, who is also a notary public, is offering free notarial services to all U.S. Army Reservists and their dependents.

Torres can be contacted through the offices of:  
Rep. Heinz Hofschneider 664-6969  
Rep. Jesus Attao 664-8822  
Rep. David Apatang 664-8980  
Or in an emergency 287-9255

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2004				
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS	
Saipan-Guam				
CO 948	4:30am	5:10am	Daily-	
		(CO890-3,6)		
CO 9598	9:15am	10:45am	Daily	
CO 9599	10:15am	11:05am	Daily	
CO 9602	2:00pm	3:30pm	Daily	
CO 9603	3:00pm	3:50pm	Daily	
CO 944	5:40pm	6:20pm	Daily-	
		(CO900-1,5)		
CO 9606	7:45pm	8:35pm	Daily	
Saipan-Manila				
CO 895	8:45pm	10:20pm	2,5	
Saipan-Nagoya				
NW 078	9:00am	11:45am	Daily	
Saipan-Shanghai				
MU 068	4:00am	7:00am	3	
MU 097	4:00am	7:00am	6	
Saipan-Guanzhou				
CZ 3008	5:30am	8:45pm	2,6	
Saipan-Tokyo				
NW 078	8:55am	1:50pm	Daily	
JAL 948	9:50pm	6:25pm	Daily	
NW 075	5:00pm	7:30pm	Daily	
Saipan-Osaka				
JAL 940	6:00am	8:30am	Daily	
Saipan-Seoul				
OZ 255	2:40am	6:30am	Daily	
Saipan-Rota				
NW 3805	7:45am	8:15am	Daily	
CO 9598	9:15am	9:45am	Daily	
NW 3807	10:00am	10:30am	Daily	
CO 9602	2:00pm	2:30pm	Daily	
NW 3803	4:15pm	4:45pm	Daily	
Saipan-Tinian				
ZU 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	
ZU 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	
ZU 105	8am	8:10am	Daily	
ZU 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	
ZU 109	9:10am	9:20am	Daily	
ZU 111	10:45am	10:55am	Daily	
ZU 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily	
ZU 115	1pm	1:10pm	Daily	
ZU 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily	
ZU 119	4pm	4:10pm	Daily	
NW 3825	4:30pm	4:42pm	6 & 7	
ZU 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily	
ZU 123	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily	
ZU 125	6pm	6:10pm	Daily	
NW 3827	8pm	8:15p	New Flt. 5	
Rota-Guam				
NW 3805	9:30am	10:00am	Daily	
CO 9599	10:00am	10:40am		
NW 3801	12:00am	1:00pm	Daily	
CO 9603	2:50 pm	3:30 pm		
NW 3803	5pm	5:30pm	Daily	
NW 3808	7:00pm	5:30pm	5	
CO 9606	7:10 pm	7:50 pm		
NW 3827	8:00pm	9:15pm	5	
Tinian-Guam				
NW 3825	5pm	5:45pm	6 & 7	
NW 3827	8:30pm	9:15pm	5	
Guam-Saipan				
CO 9598	7:15am	8:05am	Daily	
CO 9597	8:15am	9:45am	Daily	
CO 9601	11:50am	12:40pm	Daily	
CO 9600	1:20pm	2:10pm	Daily	
CO 943	4:10pm	4:55pm	Daily	
CO 9604	6:00pm	7:20pm	Daily	
CO 895	7:10pm	7:55pm	2,5	
CO 945	7:20pm	8:05pm	1,8,4,6,7	
Manila-Saipan				
CO 890	10:00pm	3:40am+1	2,5	
Nagoya-Saipan				
NW 077	8:30pm	1:00am+	Daily	
Shanghai-Saipan				
MU 067	8:00pm	2:30am+1	2	
MU 096	8:00pm	2:30am+1	5	
Guanzhou-Saipan				
CZ 3007	8:00pm	3:10A+1	1,5	
Tokyo-Saipan				
JAL 947	10am	2:20pm	Daily	
NW 076	10:35am	3:00pm	Daily	
NW 077	5:45pm	045A+1	Daily	
Osaka-Saipan				
JAL 949	10:00pm	2:25A+1	Daily	
Seoul-Saipan				
OZ 256	8:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily	
Rota-Saipan				
NW 3800	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	
CO 9597	9:15am	9:45am	Daily	
NW 3802	1:30am	2:00pm	Daily	
CO 9604	6:50pm	7:20pm	Daily	
NW 3808	7:00pm	7:30pm	Daily	
Tinian-Saipan				
ZU 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily	
ZU 104	7:50am	8am	Daily	
ZU 106	8:20am	8:30am	Daily	
ZU 108	9am	9:10am	Daily	
ZU 110	10am	10:10am	Daily	
ZU 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily	
ZU 114	12pm	12:10pm	Daily	
ZU 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily	
ZU 118	2:50pm	3pm	Daily	
ZU 120	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily	
ZU 122	5pm	5:10pm	Daily	
ZU 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily	
ZU 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily	
NW 3824	7:45pm	7:57pm	5 & 6	
Guam-Rota				
CO 910	6:25am	7:10am	2,6	
CO 941	6:25am	7:10am	1,2,4,7	
NW 3805	7:45am	8:15am	1,2,4,7	
NW 3805	7:45am	8:15am	2,6	
NW 3800	8:00am	08:30am	Daily	
CO 9598	8:15am	8:55am		
NW 3800	10:00am	10:30am	Daily	
NW 3807	10:00am	10:30am	Daily	
CO 9601	1:30pm	2:10 pm		
NW 3808	5:45pm	6:15pm	Daily	
CO 9605	6:00pm	6:40pm		
Guam-Tinian				
NW 3824	6:30pm	8:15pm	(1 stop in GPN) 5	

(Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental Airlines; NW: Northwest Airlines; JAL: Japan Airlines; OZ: Ausiana Airlines; PIA and ZU: Pacific Islands Aviation. ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE				
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	
Guam-Rota				
FRE 100	7:30am	8:00am	Daily	
Rota-Guam				
FRE 100	8:20am	8:55am	Daily	
Saipan-Rota				
FRE 200	10:00am	10:30am	Daily	
Rota-Guam				
FRE 200	10:45am	11:15am	Daily	
Guam-Rota				
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	
Rota-Saipan				
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	
Saipan-Rota				
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	
Rota-Guam				
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	
Saipan-Tinian				
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily	
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily	
Tinian-Saipan w/connecting flights to Rota or Guam**				
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily	
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily	
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily	
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily	
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily	
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily	
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily	
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily	
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily	
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily	
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily	
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily	
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily	



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 AM., AUGUST 16, 2004  
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical depression 18w...centered near 19n131e...is moving west at 8 mph with maximum sustained winds of 35 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring between 15n and 20n from 130e to 132e...and scattered showers extend out to an area between 10n and 25n from 130e to 139e. See joint typhoon warning center bulletin under WMO header wtpn31 PGTW for further details. A tropical disturbance with a circulation center east of Chuuk near 8n153e is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across eastern yap state and Chuuk state between 1n and 12n from 146e to 154e...and in Pohnpei state between 8n and 12n from 154e to 160e. This disturbance may develop into a tropical depression within the next 24 hours. See tropical cyclone formation alert under WMO header wtpn22 PGTW for further details. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers across eastern Pohnpei State...Kosrae and the Marshall Islands between the equator and 12n from 160e to 180. Scattered showers are occurring over and east of the northernmost Mariana Islands between 18n and 20n from 145e to 149e.



**SAIPAN AND TINIAN**  
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** East at 15-20 mph. Highs 87. Lows 80.



**GUAM AND ROTA**  
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** Northeast at 15-20 mph. Highs around 87. Lows 77.



**PALAU**  
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.  
**Winds:** Southwest at 5-10 kt. Highs 83. Lows 75.



**POHNPEI**  
Cloudy with numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms.  
**Winds:** South at 10-15 kt. Highs 84. Lows 70.



**YAP AND ULITHI**  
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.  
**Winds:** Northwest at 10-15 kt. Highs 86. Lows 76.



**KOSRAE**  
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.  
**Winds:** Southeast at 5-10 kt. Highs 77. Lows 75.



**CHUUK**  
Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.  
**Winds:** Southwest at 20-25 kt. Highs 79. Lows 76.



**MAJURO**  
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.  
**Winds:** East at 10-15 kt. Highs 79. Lows 75.

CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	50F (10C)	37F (3C)
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	76F (24C)	62F (17C)
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	88F (31C)	78F (26C)
Honolulu	Sunny	90F (32C)	76F (24C)
London, England	Showers	69F (21C)	54F (12C)
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	85F (29C)	64F (18C)
Manila	Thunder	87F (31C)	71F (22C)
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	54F (12C)	40F (4C)
Miami	Thunder	90F (32C)	79F (26C)
New York City	Sunny	82F (28C)	68F (20C)
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	79F (26C)	67F (19C)
Paris	Thunder	72F (22C)	51F (11C)
Pusan	Showers	82F (28C)	71F (22C)
Rome	Sunny	85F (29C)	66F (19C)
Salem, Oregon	Sunny	89F (32C)	59F (15C)
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	72F (22C)	57F (14C)
Seoul	Thunder	84F (33C)	64F (18C)
Tokyo, Japan	Partly Cloudy	83F (28C)	69F (21C)</



# House has new Commerce, Tourism chair

Speaker Benigno R. Fitial has appointed Rep. Martin B. Ada as the new chair of the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism. Ada will be replacing Rep. Ray N. Yumul while Yumul is away serving on active duty in the U.S. Army.

Fitial made his appointment in consultation with Yumul, other members of the House Leadership, and Ada, who agreed to accept the chairmanship in view of Yumul's deployment.

The Speaker, who recently arrived from an off-island trip, said he appointed Ada based on the strong recommendation and

specific request of Yumul, who cited Ada's early and active involvement in the commerce and tourism committee.

Yumul had previously asked Ada to consider assuming the responsibilities of the chairman of the House Commerce and Tourism Committee in anticipation of his impending military deployment.

"Because of his status as an active member of my committee, I believe Representative Ada will be an excellent choice to replace me in my absence," said Yumul.

Yumul added that he appreciated Ada's willingness to assist

him in view of the urgency of his situation. He also cited Ada's many years of public service and highlighted Ada's role as the chairman of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures' Economic Development Committee.

Yumul said he is grateful to Fitial and his other colleagues in the House leadership for considering his recommendation to appoint Ada as commerce and tourism chair during his overseas deployment.

Fitial indicated that he respects Yumul's preference and will honor his recommendation, say-



Ada



Yumul

M. Babauta said the entire House leadership supports the Speaker's appointment of Ada. Babauta also added that the entire House leadership joins the Speaker in commending Yumul for his exceptional service as the chairman of the committee.

"Yumul's performance was outstanding," noted the Speaker. "We commend his service in the House and we also commend his service to his country, and we wish him and his fellow reservists a safe tour of duty."

Ada, a Republican, now joins Democrat Justo Quitugua in heading up a House standing committee without becoming a member of the House's majority party.

Separately, Yumul assures his constituents that his staff will continue to serve the public in his absence.

## 'Expedited processing fee worth it'

The Division of Immigration yesterday assured employers that the extra \$150 that they have to pay for expedited processing of their workers permits would be worth it, as far as the division is concerned.

Acting Immigration director Antonio Sablan said his staff is now taking only two days to process work permit applications upon receiving them from the Department of Labor.

Under the new alien labor rules and regulations, employers may pay \$150 to have their applications processed promptly. The Labor Depart-

ment said expedited processing should take only two days if an application is complete or a maximum of two weeks if an application is not in compliance with all requirements.

Employers expressed concern that there would be no point in paying Labor the expedited fee if applications would speed through the department and then get stuck at Immigration.

But in an interview yesterday, Sablan expressed confidence that the division could process applications in a timely manner.

"Our current turnaround time is about two days upon

receipt of an application from Labor. So two-day processing is normal for us. Unless there is something that prevents us from processing an application, we intend to proceed and accommodate applications [for which employers pay an expedited fee]," Sablan said.

He added that the fee should cover the additional cost of expedited processing not only at Labor, but also at Immigration.

"We're working under one government. So any fee paid to Labor benefits the rest of the system," Sablan said. *(Agnes E. Donato)*

ing he welcomes more bipartisan cooperation in the House.

Fitial also noted that, during his tenure as Speaker of the 12th Legislature, he appointed Ada as the acting speaker while he and other members of the CNMI House leadership were meeting with their counterparts in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"I have great confidence and trust in Representative Ada's leadership qualities," said the Speaker. "And in making this appointment, I am again renewing my confidence in Representative Ada, who I am sure will do an excellent job in chairman Yumul's absence."

House Floor Leader Oscar

## Woman hurt in hit-and-run incident

A woman was injured after being hit by a vehicle that fled the scene last Friday along Beach Road San Antonio.

DPS acting public information officer Captain Pete C. Muna said yesterday that according to the victim, 23-year-old Guiying Chen, she was walking west on the crosswalk from UIC Garment when the incident occurred.

"The victim stated that there was no vehicle approaching her on the highway," he said. She crossed the highway alone and when she reached the

southbound lane, she heard a vehicle approaching. When she looked north, she saw a vehicle already close to her and approaching quickly."

Muna said the vehicle then struck Chen and left her unconscious for a while.

Medics summoned to the scene immediately took Chen to the Commonwealth Health Center. She sustained a deep laceration on her right abdomen, lacerations on her right ankle, left knee and right leg, and an abrasion on her left foot. She underwent X-ray

and CT scan and was placed in the trauma room.

Muna said a witness claimed to have seen a dark-colored sedan hitting the victim. The witness indicated that the victim went airborne and landed on the center lane after being struck by the vehicle.

According to the witness, the sedan slowed down shortly after striking the victim, then fled the scene, heading south at high speed.

The incident has been placed under investigation. It was reported at 9:54pm. *(Shan Seman)*

FEMA

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# Federal credit union to close Guam branch

**San Diego, CA**—USA Federal announced yesterday that it will close its Guam branch located at 788 South Marine Drive, Suite B on Sept. 14, 2004.

USA Federal plans to serve its Guam membership remotely via Online Banking, Quick Connect (automated telephone system), eStatements and Bill Pay.

With USA Federal's convenient electronic services, members can access account information, transfer funds, pay bills, access credit card information, apply for a loan, order checks, and more. Visit [www.usafedcu.org](http://www.usafedcu.org) for more information.

USA Federal has partnered with Government of Guam Employees Federal Credit Union to provide members who prefer to conduct in-branch transactions with an alternative trusted financial service provider. USA Federal's Guam members can choose to keep their USA Federal accounts open and manage their accounts remotely with automatic payment processing and CO-OP Network ATMs or open an account with GGEFCU.

GGEFCU has been doing business in Guam for 42 years and plans to continue to serve its Guam membership for years to come. Like USA Federal, GGEFCU is a leading financial institution that provides superior service along with valuable products and services designed to secure the financial future of their members.

With USA Federal, members can "Get there. Start here.", and GGEFCU promises to "take you...where you would want to be". GGEFCU has two branch locations in Maite and Harmon and 14 conveniently located ATMs. All Guam government employees, their immediate families, retirees, and select employee groups are eligible to join. For more information about GGEFCU, visit [www.ggefcu.com](http://www.ggefcu.com).

USA Federal Credit Union has been helping people discover true financial freedom since 1953. Today we serve more than 60,000 members by providing choices, convenience and financial advice they trust.

For more information, please call (800) 220-1872 or visit [www.usafedcu.org](http://www.usafedcu.org). USA Federal is a member of the NCUA.



**BUSINESS MEETING**  
Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, center, poses with members of the Japan Business Executive Committee after a meeting at the Coral Ocean Point Resort last Aug. 12.

## Fiji to evict 3,000 squatter families

**SUVA, Fiji** (FijiSUN/PIR)—More than 3,000 squatter families face eviction in areas across Fiji.

A report by the Department of Housing and Squatter Settlement has given a breakdown of more than ten areas that will have to make way for housing lots.

According to the agency's head, Dharam Lingam, squatting has become a major problem in Fiji due to the lack of affordable housing.

"Squatters facing eviction are 700 families from the Samabula Muslim League Estate, 600 families from Jittu Estate, 40 families from the Pony Club area, 1100 families from the Vatuvaqa area, 344 tenants from the Public Rental Board flats at Grantham, 600 tenants from the smaller settlements in Samabula, Nabua and Nasinu," he said.

He added people were forced into squatting and lived in appalling conditions with very bad shelter, no water supply, and at times no electricity and overcrowding.

However, the reports further explained that cabinet had approved a squatter development and resettlement policy.

"The policy provides for squatter upgrading in areas of concentrated squatter housing. Such areas are being designed as residential upgrading areas," he said.

Mr Lingam said all the infrastructure and planning standards were made by the Ministry for Local Government, Housing and Squatter Settlement.

The report stated that there

## Non-profit organizations honored

The 8th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council recently adopted a resolution praising non-profit organizations MOVER, KAMPIL, POWER and HANMI, and business partners CTSI, Pacific Trading, Duty Free Shoppers, Ltd., Mobil Marianas, Glimpses and others for their strong commitment to ensure a healthy, safe and clean environment on the beautiful island of Saipan.

The resolution particularly cited MOVER president Helita B. Romero; KAMPIL president Honorio Cambroner; Bicol president Lito Marquez; POWER president Socorro Borja; HANMI point-of-contact B.K. Park; business partners CTSI's Rene Magalong; Pacific Trading's Charles V. Cepeda; Duty Free Shoppers Ltd. president Marian Aldan-Pierce; Mobil Marianas public and government relations manager Cecile B. Suda; Glimpses HANMI coordinator Jojo V. Dass, and their members.

According to the resolution, these groups and their members—through a collective and collaborative partnership with government agencies—have addressed the cleanup of unsanitary and clogged drainage systems on the island.

"These non-profit organizations and business partners are collectively working toward addressing other critical environmental concerns," the resolution said.

Government agencies that are linking up with these groups include Coastal Resources Management Office and EICOT chair Benny K. Pangelinan; Victorino S. Cepeda, Office of the Mayor Of Saipan; EICOT members Glenn Arriola, Division of Environmental Quality; David B. Cepeda, Bureau of Environmental Health; Martin M. Sablan; Frank Sablan and Henry Bautista, Department of Public Works; Antonio T. Benavente, Parks & Recreation; Cristito Alepuyo, Division of Fish and Wildlife; Mathias (Mac) Chargualaf, Commonwealth Utility Corp.; Frank Tudela, Marianas Visitors Authority; and Daniel Camacho, Department Of Commerce.

"The members of the municipal council join the people of Saipan in extending special recognition, congratulation and commendation to these non-profit organizations, their business partners, and other affiliated members for a job well done," the resolution adds.

The resolution was certified by chair Gregorio V. Deleon Guerrero and vice chair David A. Indalecio and attested by secretary Antonia M. Tudela.

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# Business

## Dolphin to shut down grocery, expand dep't store

BY JOHN RAVELO  
REPORTER

Dolphin Wholesale said it will be phasing out its grocery section as part of plans to expand its department store component to accommodate more furniture stocks in the entire business premises in San Jose.

The store, one of the biggest on Saipan, has begun the phase out of the store's grocery section and it is expected to be completed once food stocks run out, possibly by Oct. 1.

Since Friday, the scores of discount tags posted on many food items at the Dolphin triggered speculations among patrons that the store would shut down operations. The discount rates range from approximately 20- to 50-percent.

"Customers flooded the store when the discount sale started,"



Dolphin Wholesale, one of the biggest on Saipan, has begun the phase out of the store's grocery section and it is expected to be completed once food stocks run out, possibly by Oct. 1.

said a cashier at Dolphin. "There were customers who claimed hearing about rumors that Dolphin would close down."

Beginning last week, Dolphin also reduced daily store hours by an hour. The store still regularly opens at 8am, but closing

time is now 11pm—instead of 12 midnight.

"We will close the food department," confirmed Dolphin's management. "We'll stop selling all kinds of food and vegetables."

The management said that the

target date for the store's redirection to concentrate on its furniture and department store is Oct. 1, but the date might vary. If food stocks remain available, the grocery would continue its operations until before Christmas.

Saipan Dolphin Corp., the company operating Dolphin, said the decision to phase out the food department was due to the highly competitive market, with the proliferation of grocery stores on the island. Dolphin is located across the San Jose Mart, another major grocery store that operates 24 hours daily.

The management said, though, that the business remains profitable, disclosing that the furniture section has been performing positively.

When the grocery section is phased out, Dolphin will strictly become a department store.



Bio process technicians work in a room of vats of 12,000 liters of fermentation for cell development at Genentech in Vacaville, Calif., Wednesday, May 15, 2002.

## Gas prices drop, but increase expected

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—Gas prices have dropped nearly 5 cents in the past three weeks with an increase in supply, but soaring crude oil prices could cause rates to rise again soon, an industry analyst said Sunday.

The weighted national average for all three grades of gasoline fell about 4.9 cents between July 23 and Friday to \$1.90 per gallon, said Trilby Lundberg, who publishes the semimonthly Lundberg Survey.

That represents a drop of 20 cents per gallon since May 21, when the average price peaked at slightly more than \$2.10 a gallon.

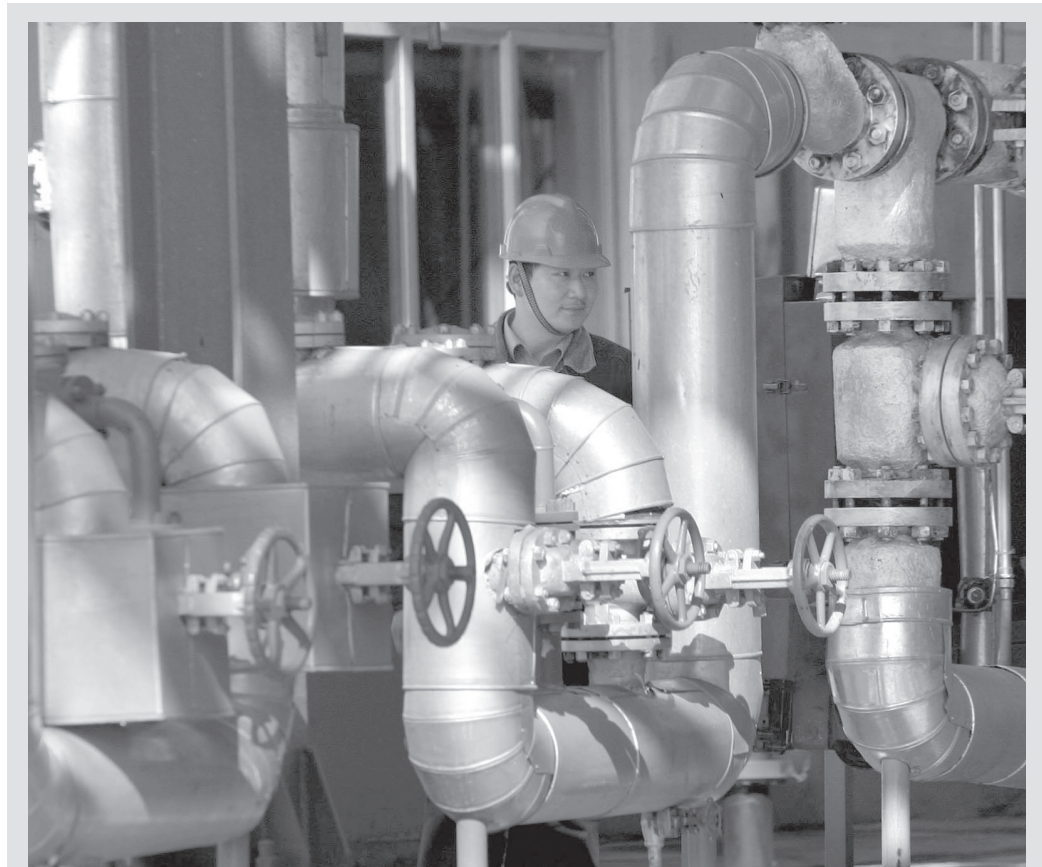
The survey, which polls nearly 8,000 gas stations across the United States, is usually published twice a month but the current report represents a three-week period.

The biggest seller in the three-week period was self-serve regular, which averaged \$1.87 per gallon. Mid-grade gasoline averaged \$1.97 per gallon and premium was about \$2.07 per gallon.

Lundberg said the break in prices likely won't last. She said crude oil has increased in cost by nearly \$5 a barrel in the past three weeks. She said gas prices nevertheless dropped because of a temporary relief in supply, which was tight during peak summer travel months.

"The drops in retail gas prices can't last," she said. "Already we see many wholesale gas prices have turned around and are on the rise—and this will hit at the pumps quickly."

The lowest average price for a gallon of self-serve regular was \$1.72, in Tulsa, Okla. The highest average price for self-serve regular was in Honolulu, where consumers are paying \$2.26 per gallon.



A Chinese worker walks past equipment at an oil refinery of the PetroChina Jilin Petrochemical Co. in Jilin, northeast China, Monday, May 24, 2004.

## Investors weighing oil, consumer prices

NEW YORK (AP)—With the second quarter earnings season winding down, investors were expected to look closely at oil prices in the coming week, as well as consumer prices, to gauge the threat of inflation and whether steep energy costs will affect corporate profits in the third quarter.

With oil climbing through \$46 per barrel last week, Wall Street was concerned that higher costs at the gas pumps would not only increase shipping costs for goods, but also keep consumers from open-

ing their wallets.

Tuesday's consumer price index will be an important barometer for investors to gauge oil's effect on inflation. Economists predicted a 0.1 percent rise in the index for July, down from June's 0.3 percent hike.

The government will also report data on housing starts and building permit applications on Tuesday.

While the vast majority of companies have already reported their quarterly profits, a few key earnings were due in the coming week, mostly

from the closely watched retail sector. Those reporting include Dow component The Home Depot Inc., booksellers Barnes & Noble Inc. and Borders Group Inc., Kmart Holding Corp. and Staples Inc.

Volatility was likely to increase through the week, as equity option contracts were to expire on Friday. Options contracts, where would-be buyers buy the right to purchase a stock if it reaches a certain level, often roil the markets as sellers scramble to fill their contracts and sell new ones.

## FDA warn doctors about Avastin

WASHINGTON—The government and Genentech are warning doctors that Avastin, used to treat colorectal cancer, increases patients' risk of heart ailments including chest pain, strokes, ministrokes and heart attacks.

Avastin also raises the risk that patients might die from those heart ailments.

Colleen Sweeney, Genentech spokeswoman, said Friday that the heart ailments had killed some patients who took the drug, but she could not say how many. "I don't have the data," Sweeney said. Genentech developed and manufactures the drug.

During clinical trials before the drug's approval, one patient died but a "clear relationship" could not be determined between Avastin use and the heart-related fatality, she said. Additional analyses led to the drug warning by the company and the Food and Drug Administration.

"Right now, we're working with the FDA, with these analyses, to update the Avastin label," she said.

Genentech would not say how many patients were prescribed Avastin after FDA approval. "We don't give out prescription information," Sweeney said.

The company told health care providers in its warning letter that patients whose cancer had spread were twice as likely to suffer serious heart ailments if they received Avastin with their chemotherapy. The highest risk individuals had a history of such heart problems and were older than 65.

The highly anticipated drug's progress through clinical trials was watched closely. The South San Francisco-based company's stock leapt after reports last summer that Avastin helped the sickest colon-cancer patients survive a few months longer than those receiving standard care.

On Feb. 26, the FDA approved the product, a genetically engineered version of a mouse antibody that contains mouse and human components, after testing showed patients who received the drug intravenously lived an additional five months. The drug, the first approved angiogenesis inhibitor to treat colorectal cancer, works by blocking new blood vessels, essentially depriving cancer cells of the oxygen and nutrients required to thrive.

The company's Aug. 12 warning letter points to the need for more basic research, said Dr. Antonio Giordano, a gene therapy expert and director of the Sbarro Institute for Cancer Research and Molecular Medicine at Temple University in Philadelphia.

"Clearly, these biological drugs are being developed to be specific for the colon. There is a possibility some of the targets in the colon are represented, also, in other tissue and organs," Giordano said. "I think more specific work needs to be done in order to understand the precise mechanism of the action of this drug."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cancer of the colon or rectum is the nation's third most common cancer and is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths. (AP)



# Election-year rate hike puzzles some

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER  
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Going against conventional wisdom, the Federal Reserve is raising interest rates in an election year. And it is Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan, a Republican, who is leading the charge even though an incumbent Republican in the White House is facing voter unrest about the state of the economy.

And in what is seemingly the strangest twist of all, President Bush and his economic team are not criticizing the moves, but rather are pointing to the rate hikes as a sign of economic strength. To demonstrate support for Greenspan, Bush re-nominated him for a fifth term just shortly before the rate

increases began in June.

So what's going on?

Many economists believe the younger Bush, mindful of his father's rocky relations with Greenspan, has gone out of his way to establish a cordial working relationship with the Fed chief. They also say times are different now.

"When Bush's father was running for re-election, he had an economy that just didn't seem to be coming out of recession. This time around the recession started earlier and that has allowed the economy to turn the corner before the election," said David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's in New York.

Still, the economy has 1.1 million fewer jobs now than when Bush took office, allowing Sen.

John Kerry, Bush's Democratic opponent, to contend that Bush's jobs record is the worst since Herbert Hoover. And while job growth did rebound to respectable levels earlier this year, job creation has nearly stalled out the past two months, with just 32,000 jobs created in July.

Yet when the Fed last Tuesday raised a key interest rate by a quarter-point, the administration's response was to say it respected the Fed's independence—a far different approach than the one taken by the elder Bush.

Bush's father blamed Greenspan for contributing to his defeat in 1992 by failing to cut interest rates quickly enough to generate a strong recovery before voters went to the polls.

The earlier Bush administra-

tion certainly tried to pressure the Fed to speed up its interest rate reductions in the year leading up to the 1992 election. At one point, Nicholas Brady, Bush's Treasury secretary, grew so annoyed with Greenspan that he abruptly cut off his weekly meetings with the Fed chief.

Such an effort was nothing unusual in the long history of often strained relations between the White House and the Federal Reserve.

One of the most famous incidents involved the legendary William McChesney Martin, the only Fed chairman to have served longer than Greenspan's 17 years. Martin was Fed chief from 1951 to 1970, a period spanning the terms of five presidents, from Harry Truman to Richard

Nixon. In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson summoned Martin to LBJ's Texas ranch to express his displeasure about a recent Fed rate hike. As part of the lobbying, Johnson took Martin on a jolting drive around the ranch in Johnson's Lincoln Continental.

But despite a full dose of the Johnson treatment, Martin stood his ground.

Paul Volcker, Greenspan's predecessor, was summoned to a meeting with President Ronald Reagan and James A. Baker III, Reagan's chief of staff, in the White House library in the summer of 1984. Baker bluntly told Volcker, with Reagan looking on, that the administration did not want any increases in interest rates that might hurt Reagan's re-election chances.

## Google IPO moves ahead despite interview

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE  
AP BUSINESS WRITER

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—Google Inc. forged ahead with its IPO auction even as the online search engine leader acknowledged a newly published magazine interview with its founders contained misleading information.

The admissions, made in a company filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, enabled Google to avoid a last-minute delay Friday in its long-awaited initial public offering, according to a source familiar with the negotiations with the SEC, who demanded anonymity.

A Playboy magazine interview with Google founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin had raised the possibility of an IPO delay because of securities laws restricting what executives can say before selling stock to the public for the first time.

Google moved quickly to quash the threat with an amended IPO filing dictated by the SEC, the source said.

A Google spokeswoman declined comment Friday.

The revised IPO documents corrected several inaccurate statements made in the Playboy article. Google also took the unprecedented step of including the entire Playboy interview in its revised IPO statement to set the record straight so its auction could continue.

The unusual auction, which requires registered bidders to submit bids to one of 28 designated brokerages, represents a major step toward completing Google's \$3 billion initial public offering.

Google hopes to sell 25.7 million shares for \$108 to \$135 per share, but the so-called Dutch auction is designed to set the final price. The Mountain View-based company plans to close the auction sometime next week and distribute the shares to winning bidders before the stock debuts on the Nasdaq Stock Market under the ticker symbol "GOOG."



Amy Acuff U.S. high jumper

Handout photo from Playboy Magazine headquarters in Chicago of the cover of the September issue with interview with Google executives. Google Inc. forged ahead with its IPO auction Friday, even as the online search engine leader acknowledged a newly published magazine interview with its founders contained misleading information.

Although it didn't derail the deal, the flap over the Playboy interview cast another cloud over the Google's once-resplendent IPO.

The company has been stung by a backlash against its high IPO target price, a legal settlement that will result in a third-quarter loss and a disclosure that management may have broken securities laws in 18 states by neglecting to register stock previously distributed to its employees.

In Friday's filing, Google warned that an unspecified number of regulators are investigating the earlier stock distributions. The inquiries may lead to fines or other penalties, the company said.

All the trouble threatens to further unnerve bidders already

antsy about the recently slumping stock market. The anxiety could lower Google's IPO price, leaving the company with less money than it anticipated as it gears up for stiffer competition from Yahoo Inc. and Microsoft Corp.

"As each problem surfaces, it takes a little more wind out of the sails," said David Menlow, president of the IPO Financial Network.

The Playboy interview might haunt Google in another way. The company's shareholders can still sue the company demanding Google buy back the IPO shares during the next year if they believe the Playboy article tainted the stock. In Friday's filing, Google vowed to "contest vigorously" any claims that the Playboy interview broke securities laws.

## EU willing to rethink Airbus subsidies

BRUSSELS, Belgium

**(AP)**—The European Union said Saturday it was willing to consider "disciplining" government support to European aircraft maker Airbus—but only if the United States does the same for rival Boeing Co.

Responding to President Bush's threat Friday to challenge "unfair" EU subsidies at the World Trade Organization "if need be," the EU's head office noted that "constructive discussions" were already under way between the two sides.

Those talks must cover indirect and "more recently direct" subsidies to Boeing if changes are to be made to the government-backed loans Airbus receives for launching new models, EU spokeswoman Ewa Hedlund said.

"Indeed, the EU has as strong an interest in disciplining government support to Boeing as the U.S. administration has in disciplining support to Airbus," she said.

Bush, campaigning for re-election, raised the issue during a stop in Washington state, where some 40,000 Boeing workers have lost their jobs over the past three years.

Allegations of unfair subsidies, which date back decades, have heated up recently as the market for commercial airliners has shrunk and competition tightened. Airbus has booked the most orders in four out of the last five years and

last year delivered the most airliners for the first time, 305 planes versus only 281 for Boeing—less than half its level in 1999, when U.S. airlines were riding high.

A 1992 trans-Atlantic civil aviation accord prohibits its production subsidies and limits government loans for developing new models to 33 percent of the total cost.

Boeing charges Airbus gets the loans at below-market rates—something the EU denies—and notes Airbus doesn't have to pay them back if the models are not profitable, thus skewing competition.

The EU charges Boeing, the world's largest aerospace company, has long enjoyed indirect subsidies through governments contracts in defense, space and transport—although Airbus' parent firms, EADS and BAE Systems, do similar work.

More recently, questions have been raised about the US\$3.2 billion incentive package Washington state offered late last year to secure the assembly plant for Boeing's new 7E7 Dreamliner.

Last December, Airbus also said it was gathering information about government loans and subsidies promised to Japanese companies lined up for about a third of the manufacturing work for the 7E7, including engineering firms Mitsubishi, Kawasaki and Fuji.

## Tokyo stocks open lower; dollar down

**TOKYO (AP)**—Tokyo stocks opened lower Monday, following disappointing news about Japan's economic growth. The U.S. dollar was down against Japanese yen.

The Nikkei Stock Average of 225 issues was down 28.22 points, or 0.26 percent, at 10,728.98 points early Monday.

On Friday, the index declined 270.87 points, or 2.46 percent, closing at 10,757.20 points—the lowest since the May 18 finish of 10,711.09 points.

The dollar was quoted at 110.53 yen at 9 a.m. local time Monday, down 1.41 yen from late Friday in Tokyo and also below the 110.57 yen it bought in New York later that day.

Tokyo stocks slipped early Monday as investors sold banks and other financial stocks. The market remained cautious after Friday's government announcement that Japan's economy grew 0.4 percent in the quarter ended June 30 or at an annualized rate of 1.7 percent.

**STOCK**

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TAIPEI	10,728.98	-0.26%
BANGKOK	10,728.98	-0.26%
MANILA	10,728.98	-0.26%
COLOMBO	10,728.98	-0.26%
KUALA LUMPUR	10,728.98	-0.26%
JAKARTA	10,728.98	-0.26%
NEW DELHI	10,728.98	-0.26%
MUMBAI	10,728.98	-0.26%
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# Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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2004, The Washington Post





# New Caledonia OKs Pacific Blue service

**NOUMEA, New Caledonia** (Oceania Flash/PIR)—Regional airline Virgin Blue subsidiary Pacific Blue has just added New Caledonia to its destination map.

New Caledonia's government on Thursday gave its final approval to the application, which is expected to reduce travel costs between the French Pacific country and Brisbane, Australia.

Pacific Blue will fly the route twice a week, on Tuesdays and Saturdays, starting October 12.

The request was based on two slots that had been unused for some time by Australia's flag carrier Qantas.

As the slots came under French-Australian aviation agreements, the request officially came from the

Australian government.

French authorities were bound to accept, but it still had a say in the flight schedule and proposed prices.

A one-way trip to Brisbane on Pacific Blue would now cost as less as 14,900 CFP (US\$150).

Simultaneously, New Caledonia's international airline Air Calédonie International (AirCalin) has announced a significant drop in its rates to and from Australia in order to readjust to the new competition.

It boasts a lean 37,000 CFP (US\$370) return fare to Brisbane as soon as next month.

"At the end of the day, these are quite similar fares, bearing in mind that the service provided is not really

the same: AirCalin is offering meals on board, where Virgin Blue does not", New Caledonia's minister for economy and transport Didier Leroux told local media at a press conference.

The announcement was welcomed by local tourism stakeholders, who said this could only boost New Caledonia's number of visitors, which is currently hardly over 100,000 per year.

In the past few months, after initially flying within and between Australia and New Zealand, Virgin Blue's Pacific wings have spread significantly: the company has secured authorization to start services in the next few weeks to several Pacific Island states, including Fiji, the Cook Islands and Vanuatu.

## ZERO

From Page 1

with federal requirements.

Cabrera said that port authorities

had worked with a government-hired consultancy group in preparing the port security plan to ensure prompt compliance.

The seaport also expects to receive

funding under the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002, which aims to provide grants for enhanced facility security at all U.S. ports for the next six fiscal years.

## ENTRY

From Page 1

tourists who are at least 55 years old and who hold a passport from Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, or the United Kingdom.

These countries provide a comparable permit to citizens of the Commonwealth.

Applicants for CEPs must also have a passport valid for at least 60 days after the expected date of departure.

Under immigration rules and regulations, the immediate family members of senior citizens may themselves receive CEPs. Their permits, however, will expire with that of the eligible senior citizen.

CEP holders may stay in the Commonwealth for up to 90 days, but they may not remain outside the CNMI for more than 10 consecutive days. Also, they may not get a CEP renewal, or be issued a CEP within 30 days after the expiration of any other permit.

"Aliens present in the Commonwealth pursuant to a comity entry permit cannot conduct business or perform services during their stay; such activities constitute grounds for immediate revocation," a portion of the regulations said.

Two other types of visitor permits are the short-term tourist entry permit and the long-term tourist entry permit.

The short-term entry permit allows a tourist to enter the CNMI for 30 days, while the long-term entry per-

mit allows a tourist to stay for either an additional period of 60 days after entering on a short-term permit, or a single period of 60 days.

A long-term entry permit is obtained by submitting proper documents to the Division of Immigration and paying a \$100 fee.

It may only be issued after an applicant has been outside the CNMI for at least 30 days, except that one long-term entry permit may be issued as an extension of a short-term entry permit. However, a person in the Commonwealth under a long-term tourist entry permit may immediately obtain a short-term tourist permit after the Commonwealth before the long-term entry permit expires.

form allowing for their scholarship checks to be disbursed through the college for payment of their outstanding tuition and fees and book charges. Only the money left from these charges eventually goes to the students.

NMC decided to have the scholarship checks released directly to the students upon the latter's request and agreement that they will clear their outstanding balances by the end of the Fall 2004 semester.

Upon the students' suggestion, those with outstanding balances will not be allowed register for the Spring 2005 semester.

Students get an average of \$2,000 from the CNMI Scholarship Office and about the same amount from the Pell Grant annually.

everything unless security personnel see something unusual through the machines," said Salas.

He said the project would expand the existing departure area.

"Some expansion would be made either at the back area or the front," said Salas.

Earlier, authorities had also enclosed the airport's check-in area to ensure enhanced security in screening departing passengers.

## NMC

From Page 1

enrollment.

Most students rely on the Pell Grant and other scholarship providers for funding for their education. Because NMC has been under Pell reimbursement basis, some students were expected to have problems in registering for the new semester.

Last week, however, NMC announced that students who have yet to receive their Pell reimbursement for last school year's tuition and fees may enroll for the fall semester.

Starting last Friday, eligible students were also allowed to purchase textbooks at the NMC bookstore and charge the costs to their Pell award.

The federal government placed the college on Pell reimbursement status—instead of advance status—due to NMC's failure to submit audits on time in the last four years. The U.S. Education Department later said the reimbursement status would be lifted as soon as NMC submits three consecutive batches of student applications that contain an error rate of 10 percent or less.

To further assist the students financially, NMC asked the CNMI Scholarship Office last week to disregard all release forms submitted by the students for their Fall 2004 scholarship checks and issue the money directly to the students.

Under the old practice, the college asks scholarship recipients to sign a

The project, funded by the Federal Aviation Administration, has been awarded to the Boeing Company.

Part of the project is the installation of three CTX scanning machines that can handle 500 pieces of luggage per hour.

"It's an explosive detection system so it can detect what's inside of the luggage without you opening it. It would be more comfortable since passengers would no longer open



## Nature conservancy eyes Solomons sanctuary

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** (RNZI/PIR)—The Nature Conservancy wants to help establish protected marine zones in the Solomon Islands to save what it says is a marine environment of importance for all the world.

A 2,000 kilometer marine mapping exercise earlier this year showed the Solomon Islands as the second most biologically diverse region in the world.

But Gerald Myles of the Nature Conservancy says it also showed signs of over fishing and sedimentation as a result of destructive forestry practices.

To try and counter this, the Nature Conservancy wants to conserve key areas to save the vital species and also increase those species local communities regularly fish for.

"We are looking at protected area systems—networks of protected areas that can meet those daily needs and also the conservation goals that are going to be important for the long term national development of the Solomon Islands," Myles said.

## Vanuatu deadlocked on president

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** (RNZI/PIR)—The Vanuatu electoral college has been unable to decide on a new president to replace Alfred Maseng, who was deposed in May when his criminal background was revealed.

The college voting was reportedly divided between five candidates.

The college's 58 members, made up of members of parliament and provincial leaders, will meet on Monday to try again.

Yesterday, the opposition met with government to try to thrash out a likely president from the 15 nominees, before today's formal session.

But the government's spokesperson, Kal Moli, said government is refusing to back any candidate preferred by the opposition until the opposition drops its threat of a no-confidence motion, due to go to court tomorrow.

"As far as the government is concerned, they will back any candidate, on the basis that several matters of importance are being addressed. The motion was a subject of discussion by the leaders. That also is an issue."

## New problem on Bougainville: youth crime

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** (RNZI/PIR)—The Governor of Bougainville, John Momis, says a fresh wave of crime has hit the Papua New Guinea island.

Mr Momis says crimes involving brutality are becoming common.

He says recently there have been a number of rapes involving young people and police have confirmed that criminal activities have risen in the North and South of the island.

Mr Momis believes Bougainville is witnessing a new type of crime.

"The lawlessness that was being perpetrated by the ex-combatants has improved very much. There is not much problems created by the ex-combatants. We are talking about young people consuming liquor, home-brew liquor, and using drugs that are causing some trouble."

John Momis says the arrival of Australian Federal Police will help address law and order in the short term but education on the island needs to be improved to affect long term change.

## UN report dissects Solomons unrest

**MELBOURNE, Australia** (Radio Australia/PIR)—A United Nations agency has released a report identifying the root causes of civil unrest in Solomon Islands in recent years.

The report by, the UN Development Program, canvassed the views of the islands' women, churches, former militants, government officials and aid donors.

UNDP coordinator in Solomon Islands Nick Hartman says part of the unrest was caused by customary land ownership issues, and the conflict between tribal chiefs, the church and more formal governing structures.

"The elected leaders form part of a governance structure that we feel is still alien to what is 85 percent of the population being in rural areas spread over a country with 950 islands."

He said there is a need to find a better governance structure where the tribal chiefs are recognized as the day to day authority and yet the parliamentary system with the executive branch and the legislative branch are the new modern governing structure.

## Solomons prison riot under investigation

**MELBOURNE, Australia** (Radio Australia/PIR)—An inquiry has been into yesterday's riot at Rove prison in the Solomon Islands capital of Honiara.

During the disturbance, more than 100 inmates broke out of their cells, occupying parts of the compound, causing damage and throwing stones at police.

There were no escapes and no apparent injuries, but it took local and international police many hours to bring the situation under control.

New Zealand's Foreign Minister, Phil Goff, has expressed serious concern over Tuesday's unrest, saying the appropriate lessons will have to be drawn.

"There has been a buildup of incidents within the prison and I think it's important for the reassurance of all people in the Solomon Islands that the maximum is being done to ensure that those charged with offences or convicted of offences will continue to be kept secure and there are lessons. I'm sure, that will be learned from this incident."

# Saipan Tribune

Make it your **DAILY** habit.



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# Business

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# Asia

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# World

tribune graduation ad





# Overdrive

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## Life &amp; Style

## Minding Ps and Qs at the Games

By J. MICHAEL KENNEDY  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

America's Olympic jocks are being instructed in how to behave on the world stage.

They're being asked by some high-profile past Olympians not to horse around on the medals podium and not to drape themselves in the American flag or make it into a turban or a toga—as medalists have in the past. They're being urged to turn the other cheek if they're heckled, to walk away from a jeering crowd.

There is a reason for all this concern. The United States' image abroad is hardly stellar, given, among other things, the occupation of Iraq and the graphic photos of abuse that have come out of Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison. U.S. Olympic Committee officials know that given the high disapproval rating of U.S. policy around the world, American athletes, who are expected to dominate the Games, could get a hostile reception, as they have on other recent occasions. And though America-bashing is nothing new, the intensity of feeling has spiked upward in recent months.

At a U.S.-Mexico soccer game in Mexico City several months ago, thousands of fans booed during the playing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and many of them chanted "Osama, Osama" dur-

ing the game. At the world championship meet in Barcelona this year, the American women's synchronized swimming team was heckled while they were preparing to begin their program.

There have been transgressions on the part of Americans in the past, notably the posturing and preening of members of the men's 400-meter relay team after they won the race four years ago at the Sydney, Australia, Olympics. They wrapped themselves in the U.S. flag, made turbans of it, then aroused more ire by clowning on the medals podium.

Their actions were a source of displeasure even among some of the American athletes, prompting sprinter Nanceen Perry to denounce her own teammates.

"How do you expect anyone to respect our flag if you don't?" she complained at the time. "Foreigners think we're rude, anyway, so it just confirms the whole image they have of us."

And then there were the antics of sprinter Jon Drummond at last year's World Track and Field Championships when he refused to leave the track after being disqualified for a false start.

In a recent commentary on National Public Radio, Sports Illustrated's Frank Deford cited the silliness of then-basketball superstar Charles Barkley during the 1992 Olympics as something to be avoided. Said Deford, "He mugged

a skinny basketball opponent from an African team and then chuckled that he couldn't be too sure that he wasn't carrying a spear.

"We all laugh, if nervously, but obviously we can't afford to truck with that sort of supercilious attitude. This summer in sports is probably a better time to accept our dominion graciously rather than to remind our neighbors of it."

In an attempt to keep the theatrics and boorish behavior to a minimum, the U.S. Olympic Committee has enlisted the help of former swimming phenom Janet Evans, who won four Olympic gold medals, and Bob Beamon, who shattered the world long-jump record at the 1968 Mexico City Games. They've been staging sessions with athletes about the do's and don'ts of the Olympics.

"The seminars are totally voluntary," said U.S. Olympic Committee spokesman Darryl Seibel. "They aren't lectures or anything like that. It's an opportunity to really gain and benefit from the insight of two of the most respected Olympians we have."

That may be so, but one of the major points of the seminar is about the use of the flag. It's clear that the USOC doesn't want American athletes showing off to the rest of the world with the stars and stripes.

"We want them to treat the flag with

the respect and dignity it deserves," Seibel said. "Wave the flag with pride and honor, but don't use it in a disrespectful way to taunt your opponent, and don't use it as a prop."

Evans and Beamon said the sessions—held mainly at the Olympic training center in Colorado Springs, Colo.—were unscripted and that much of the time was spent answering questions.

So will this year mark a new high in Olympian dignity? All they can do is coach them, said Evans, who swam in three Olympics. In the end, "they have to all make their own adult decision about how to act."

One film they use depicts good and bad ways of acting during the Games. Topping the bad list is the U.S. relay team, which included sprinters Maurice Greene, Bernard Williams, Brian Lewis and Drummond. (On Tuesday Greene announced to a news conference in Athens that he is "the best sprinter in history.") Another on the bad side is swimmer Amy Van Dyken, who spat in an opponent's lane before a race.

The good include swimmer Anthony Ervin, who tied for the gold with Gary Hall Jr. in the 50-meter freestyle, and tennis star Venus Williams. Evans said they both comported themselves well and were not overly dramatic.

Evans said each of the teams she met

with reacted differently. The men's volleyball team, for instance, are all veterans of the international sporting scene and kept the session short, politely thanking her for her time. "But the boxers were all rookies," she said. "They were like sponges. They just soaked it all in."

For his part, Beamon counseled the athletes that for many the Olympics is a once in a lifetime event. "These are great moments that you can't take back," he said. "It is probably the most exciting time of their lives and the key is to make it a memorable occasion."

Beamon said he and Evans also underlined the fact that the American athletes in particular are under a microscope, even at times when they are simply wandering the Olympic Village while not competing.

"It's most important how you carry yourself throughout the competition," he said by phone from his home in Miami.

Having veteran Olympians give advice is not new. Tommie Smith, one of two athletes who raised a gloved fist on the Olympics medals podium in 1968, said the legendary Jesse Owens spoke to the athletes before the Mexico City Games.

"We listened to his spiel because we recognized that people like Jesse Owens had been there," Smith said. "But times do change."

## No black rock musicians on Miller cans

By JULIET WILLIAMS  
AP WRITER

**MILWAUKEE** (AP)—A Miller Brewing Co. promotion celebrating the "50th Anniversary of Rock 'n' Roll" has Rolling Stone cover shots of Elvis Presley, Blondie and others on eight commemorative beer cans. What's missing is a black artist.

Robert Thompson, a professor of pop culture at Syracuse University, said the absence is "beyond conspicuous" since black artists often are credited with inventing rock 'n' roll.

"It would be like doing a set of cans of six great Impressionist painters and not including any French people on it," he said. "It leaves out an enormous amount."

The brewer and the magazine issued the cans this summer, depicting Elvis Presley, Blondie, Alice Cooper, Bon Jovi, Def Leppard and Willie Nelson, as well as two guitars.

Gary Armstrong, chief marketing officer for Rolling Stone publisher Wenner Media, said race wasn't a consideration when choosing the artists.

"We didn't even consciously think pro or con, the same way that the only woman on there is Blondie. We just went with the people that we

thought were appropriate," he said. "We went through (the covers) and said these people we don't think are appropriate, or wouldn't appeal to Miller drinkers."

Armstrong noted Rolling Stone

said the company started with a broad wish list.

"I'm sure that our objective was to get as diverse a representation of musical acts as well as diversity," he said, but the company's choices were

concert series sponsored by Miller Lite, declined to comment on the cans.

Todd Mesek, the hall of fame's senior marketing director, said "African heritage is critical" to rock's development.

Rock and roll is black America meeting white America," McKeen said. "It's about the merger of white people's music, country, with black people's music, rural blues."

"I mean, sure, you can argue that Elvis opened the door, but then Chuck Berry and Little Richard and Bo Diddley came through," McKeen said.

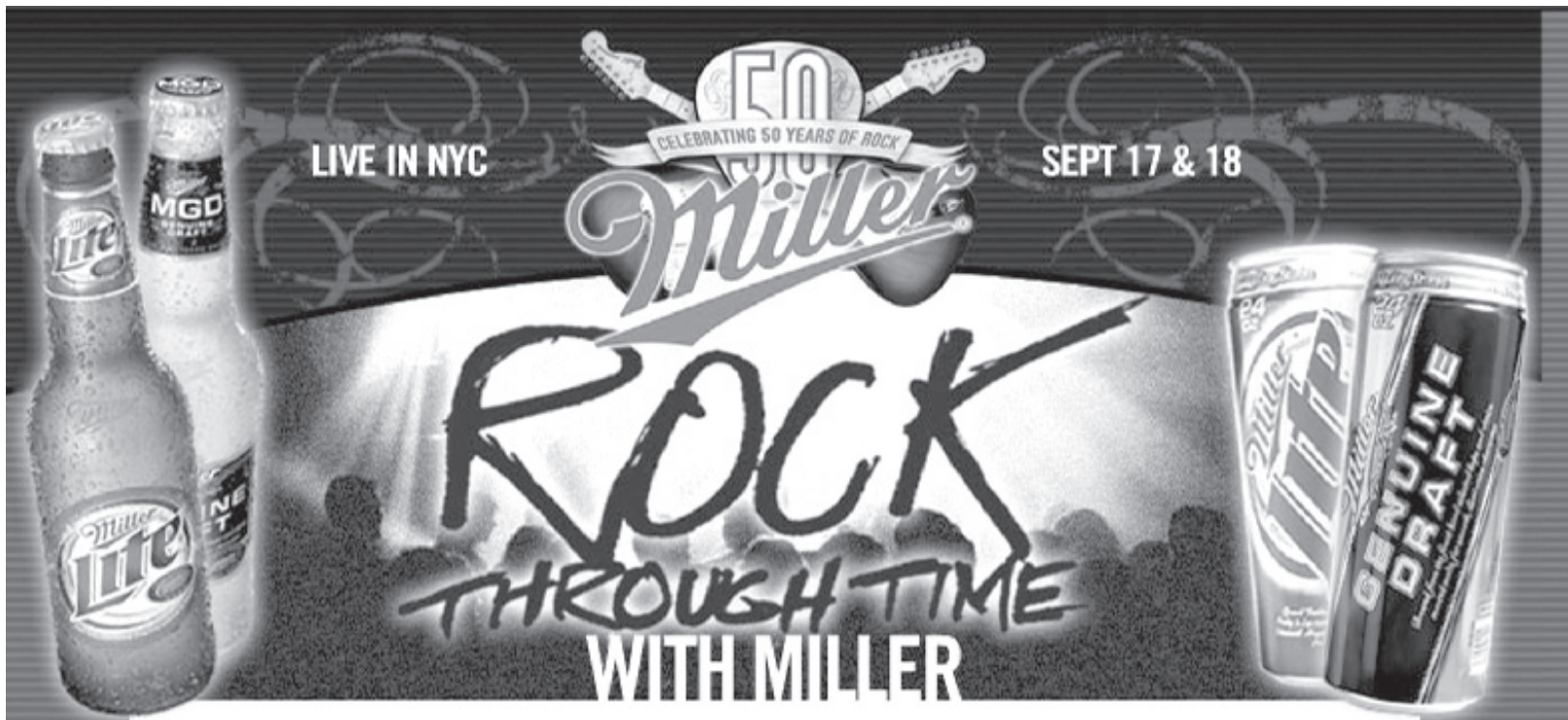
Armstrong said each of the artists represents developments in rock history. For instance, Willie Nelson represents Americana and rock's roots, while Alice Cooper is "stadium rock and shock."

The artists weren't paid to appear on the cans, although some received perks such as free beer or magazine subscriptions, Armstrong said.

He said he hasn't heard anything negative about the promotion, which is running in conjunction with three Rolling Stone special editions: rock immortals, moments and photos. In its immortals edition, 20 of the 50 rockers are black.

Thompson said everyone has an opinion when it comes to rock, and the cans may have been designed to generate buzz more than anything else.

"My guess is a lot of people will have a lot to say about this list," he said. "Oftentimes that's the point."



wasn't around for the birth of rock 'n' roll—it was first published in 1967—when many formative black artists of the genre emerged. And many artists who appeared on covers balked at being associated with a promotion involving alcohol, he said.

Jimi Hendrix's estate, for instance, is protective of his image, Armstrong said. "Again I think it might have had something to do with the beer."

Miller spokesman Scott Bussen

limited to Rolling Stone covers.

Miller spokeswoman Molly Reilly said other artists were considered, but "these are the artists that gave us approval to use their images on the beer cans."

Six of the initial 10 inductees into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland in 1986 were black, including Chuck Berry, James Brown, Ray Charles and Little Richard. The Hall of Fame, which is throwing a summer

"Arguably all rock and roll came from, or at least was greatly influenced by, African culture," Mesek said. "Rock and roll came from R&B, jazz, folk. All those genres before rock and roll came together to birth rock and roll."

William McKeen, chairman of the University of Florida journalism department and editor of the book "Rock and Roll is Here to Stay," called the list strange.

"I look at rock 'n' roll in racial terms.



# 'Alien vs Predator' smacks down rivals

By DAVID GERMAIN  
AP MOVIE WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Movie-goers were easy prey for a double dose of space invaders. The sci-fi smackdown "Alien vs. Predator," featuring the creatures of the "Alien" and "Predator" franchises, debuted as the No. 1 weekend movie with \$38.25 million, studio estimates showed Sunday.

"Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement," with Anne Hathaway and Julie Andrews reprising their royal roles, opened in second place with a three-day gross of \$23 million, pushing its total since premiering Wednesday to \$37.2 million.

That was about on par with the \$37.9 million "The Princess Diaries" took in over its entire first week in August 2001.

The new movies bumped the previous weekend's top film, Tom Cruise's "Collateral," to third place with \$16 million.

The animated kid flick "Yu-Gi-Oh! The Movie," adapted from the TV cartoon show from Japan, debuted at No. 4 with \$9.4 million.

"Alien vs. Predator," featur-



AP

Actor Lance Henriksen—as Charles Bishop Weyland—who represents an important casting connection with the "Aliens" film franchise, battles the iconic monster from the thriller franchise "Predator," in a scene from "Alien vs. Predator," in this undated promotional photo.

ing Sanaa Lathan and "Aliens" and "Alien 3" co-star Lance Henriksen, centers on a human expedition that stumbles on a space-monster blood feud in an ancient pyramid buried below Antarctica.

The movie debuted slightly ahead of the \$36.4 million de-

but of last summer's horror hybrid "Freddy vs. Jason," which paired the slashers of the "Friday the 13th" and "A Nightmare on Elm Street" franchises.

"This continues the trend of combining franchises to very strong box-office results," said Paul Dergarabedian, president

of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations. "If you're a fan of the 'Alien' movies, you want to see this movie. If you're a fan of 'Predator,' you want to see this movie."

Audiences shelled out \$16.8 million to see "Alien vs. Predator" on Friday, but the movie's gross fell to \$12.5 million Saturday, a steep 26 percent decline. Most new movies do better business on Saturday than Friday.

That's a sign that "Alien vs. Predator" could follow the pat-

tern of "Freddy vs. Jason" and other horror tales, which tend to open well then plunge in subsequent weekends.

Still, "Freddy vs. Jason" topped out at a healthy \$82.2 million domestically. Budgeted at \$60 million, "Alien vs. Predator" would turn a solid profit for 20th Century Fox if it matches the gross of "Freddy vs. Jason."

Preceded by "Alien vs. Predator" video games, the movie drew a largely male audience, most younger than 25. To broaden its

appeal, 20th Century Fox brought the movie in at a PG-13 rating,

"I don't think it's a cop-out at all," said Bruce Snyder, the

studio's head of distribution. "This is based on a video game that did have a bit of a younger audience. There's a lot of action and violence, but most of it is creature to creature rather than creature to people."

In limited release, the domestic drama "We Don't Live Here Anymore," starring Laura Dern, Naomi Watts, Mark Ruffalo and Peter Krause, opened strongly with

\$106,000 in just seven theaters. The film expands to more theaters this Friday.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. Final figures will be released Monday.

1. "Alien vs. Predator," \$38.25 million.
2. "Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement," \$23 million.
3. "Collateral," \$16 million.
4. "Yu-Gi-Oh! The Movie," \$9.4 million.
5. "The Bourne Supremacy," \$8.3 million.
6. "The Village," \$7 million.
7. "The Manchurian Candidate," \$6 million.
8. "Little Black Book," \$3.7 million.
9. "I, Robot," \$3.6 million.
10. "Spider-Man 2," \$3.4 million.

## Entertainment world wary of Microsoft

By GARY GENTILE  
AP BUSINESS WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—CinemaNow Inc., the Internet-based movie service, is a rarity in Hollywood—a company that eagerly embraces Microsoft Corp. technology and relies on it exclusively to transmit, protect and display the movies it rents to customers. Then again, Microsoft is a major investor in the company, which is also owned by independent studio Lions Gate.

The majority of entertainment companies, unsure of Microsoft's motives and wary of its cutthroat tactics in the battle for the computer desktop, have preferred to maintain an arm's-length relationship with the software Goliath.

But these days, studios fear digital piracy more than they

fear Microsoft and have slowly begun to make deals to use its software tools, albeit on a non-exclusive basis.

For its part, Microsoft has tried to calm Hollywood's anxiety, revealing a portion of its proprietary code for compressing large media files to a standards-setting group and offering longer-term deals to assuage fears it would hike the price of each new software version.

"They are being subtly aggressive, not like in the PC industry where they used strong-arm tactics," said Michael Wolf, principal analyst at research firm In-Stat.

Microsoft also is starting to see limited success in its efforts to work with Hollywood in the still nascent online movie market. Last week, Microsoft's MSN Internet division began linking to Blockbuster Inc.'s online rental

service. MSN also offers a limited number of pay-per-view movies through CinemaNow.

At a time when studios are seeking to make higher-quality versions of movies and television shows available on everything from computers to cell phones, dealing with Microsoft has become almost unavoidable.

"Microsoft wants to be the sticky stuff in the middle between the studios and all the different platforms consumers will use," said American Technology Research analyst P.J. McNealy. "They have the chance to really enable business models that we have heard about over the past five years."

But at what price?

Microsoft has long dallied with the media business, forming the MSNBC cable network with NBC and launching its own video

game console to take advantage of the burgeoning game market.

It formed the online magazine Slate, which it recently said it would sell, and launched a number of other forays, not always successful. Its MSN service still lags America Online and it has closed a number of other ventures, including Mungo Park, an adventure travel Web site.

It has also amassed a huge amount of cash and a reputation as an aggressive and relentless competitor, willing to use its virtual monopoly power in computer operating systems to crush would-be competitors.

That power made studios highly suspicious when Microsoft came calling in the 1990s seeking to persuade Hollywood to make content available in digital form on computers and home networks.

## Phish begins its last three concert sets

COVENTRY, Vt. (AP)—Jumping, singing and dancing, over 60,000 fans basked in the music as Phish opened the first of three farewell sets Sunday night at a festival in northeastern Vermont, the jam band's home state.

Phish built its concert stage on a quiet, mostly agricultural section of Vermont not far from the Canadian border. The rolling hills and open expanse of field formed a natural amphitheater for the band to stage its traditionally improvisation-heavy live show. The last set was scheduled to conclude early Monday morning.

With no word of introduction, bassist Mike Gordon took the lead vocals and worked the crowd

into a funk-driven frenzy with the Phish classic "Mike's Song." The feverish melee paused only for the gentle pulsing of Page McConnell's organ, signaling the band's transition into the softer instrumental "I am Hydrogen."

The mellow segue didn't last long, though, and Phish quickly resumed intensity to round out the tune—the sun-drenched crowd thanking the band for the groove with screams, bouncing beach balls and thunderous applause.

Fans had another reason to be thankful: the weather. Sunday was the second sunny day in a row after a week in which torrential rains turned the concert site into a squishy, mucky swamp.

Phish announced in May that it would break up after this weekend's festival, eliciting reactions among fans that ranged from anger to acceptance.

That diversity of emotion was obvious inside the site of the two-day event, the 600-acre Newport State Airport.

"I think that Trey is selfish," said Sean Mullady of Rockville Center, N.Y., referring to Phish's front man, Trey Anastasio. "Phish is ending it; there's no band to take over the subculture."

Others were more optimistic about what the future holds for "Phish heads," the band's legion of devoted followers.

Chelsea Terrell, 31, of San

Francisco said the band's departure from the music scene meant that it was time to move on.

"For me, it's time to start something new," she said. "I'm thankful it ever happened."

Despite Sunday's clear skies, groups of fans were seen filing out of the festival during the day.

Twenty-five-year-old Derek Finholt of Salem, Oregon, said the bad weather earlier in the week prompted his decision to leave.

"I'm having a good time, but the water really dampened peoples' spirits," he said as he stood on the airport runway waiting for his car to be towed out of the ankle-deep mud. "The concert had so much potential."



## Couple accommodate their different levels of desire

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm writing regarding your reply to "Needs More," whose sexual appetite is bigger than her fiancé's. You advised her not to marry him because of it. I disagree.

I have been married to a wonderful man for three years. Had I let our differing drives stop me from marrying him, I would have missed out on a loving, mature, attentive husband and father to our children. I actually think I have it better than many women out there whose husbands demand sex daily.

There is more to a relationship than sex. My husband shows me love and affection in hundreds of other ways. Perhaps "Needs More" should take a closer look at their relationship. If sex is the only thing lacking, other ways of physically expressing love—like hugging, holding hands and kissing—could be substituted. If she nurtures her relationship in all the other ways, she may find, as I have, that his desire grows in time. Libido fades with age; love does not.

SATISFIED IN ALL WAYS IN KNOXVILLE

**DEAR SATISFIED:** You and your husband have been able to negotiate past your differences and make your marriage a fulfilling one. That is not the case with many of the wives and husbands who write to me. Sometimes I wish I could run a dating service for all of the mismatched couples who feel sad, frustrated, isolated and unattractive to the person they love. The reasons for a low sex drive can vary. Read on:

**DEAR ABBY:** My second wife found herself with a far stronger libido than I could match. This, of course, left me with a lot of disappointment. She, a nurse, said, "Off to the doctor with you!" The doctor said, "Let's do some lab work." Sure enough, there was a little brain chemistry issue I needed to deal with. I am now on medication, which solved our problem.

HAPPIER NOW IN KANSAS CITY

**DEAR HAPPIER NOW:** I'm pleased that your problem was resolved. Thank you for pointing out that a low sex drive may be an indication of a medical problem.

**DEAR ABBY:** That letter from "Needs More" could have been written by me 20 years ago. I married my best friend, who also had very little interest in sex. During our six-year marriage we argued frequently and I felt more and more undesirable. When I finally found the strength to leave the marriage, it broke both our hearts.

Two years later, my ex realized that he was gay. It made so much sense in retrospect. I agree with the advice you gave "Needs More." She should keep her fiancé as a friend, but she should not marry him.

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT IN VIRGINIA

**DEAR BEEN THERE:** Thank you for sharing your experience. The mail I have received from readers has been divided on this issue. About one-third came from women, like yourself, whose husbands turned out to be gay. Another third said the problem had been caused by a hormonal or chemical imbalance or depression, which had been successfully treated. The rest felt I should reconsider my advice:

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband and I have learned that with open communication, compromise and respect, we can work through this difference. Intimacy, although important, is only one part of marriage. Because people are different does not mean they should not marry. Marriage is the union of two individuals, not two identical people. Please reconsider your advice to "Needs More."

FEELING FRISKY IN FRISCO, TEXAS

**DEAR FEELING FRISKY:** Although I admire your level of maturity, I think I'll stand pat with my answer.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$10 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)*



*Dear Abby*

# 'Michael Jackson not manhandled'

**LOS ANGELES (AP)—**The state attorney general's office has concluded that Michael Jackson was not "manhandled" by sheriff's deputies who took him into custody last year on child molestation charges, CBS News reported Sunday.

The findings were contained in a three-page letter Martin A. Ryan, chief of the attorney general's California Bureau of Investigation, sent to Santa Barbara County Sheriff Jim Anderson, CBS reported on its Web site. A spokesman for the attorney general did not immediately return a call for comment.

Jackson told CBS' "60 Minutes" last year that he was "manhandled" by sheriff's deputies who deliberately handcuffed him in a way they knew was "going to hurt" and that dislocated his shoulder when he surrendered to authorities at Santa Barbara Municipal Airport on Nov. 20.

After he was taken to jail, he said, he was placed in a feces-smeared restroom for 45 minutes before being released.

The investigation "did not uncover verifiable information that Mr. Jackson was injured at the hands of Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department personnel, and no criminal misconduct on the part of sheriff's personnel was identified," Ryan said in the Aug. 2 letter.

Jackson's lawyer, Thomas Mesereau Jr., declined Sunday to discuss the attorney general's investigation, citing a court-imposed gag order. But he told The Associated Press he might ask the judge for permission to comment on the letter, since it had been made public.

Anderson requested an independent investigation after Jackson made the allegations last year. He also asked that state Attorney General Bill

Lockyer issue a legal opinion on whether Jackson's allegations would amount to filing a false police report if they were found to be untrue.

Ryan said that opinion would be forwarded to the sheriff's office by his agency's legal division.

According to the letter, Ryan's office assigned a dozen people to investigate Jackson's complaint, and they spent more than 2,500 hours looking into it, conducting interviews with sheriff's deputies, jail inmates, airport employees and Jackson's own chiropractor and security detail.

"Despite several attempts to obtain a statement from Mr. Jackson and/or names of potential witnesses through Mr. Jackson's attorneys, these efforts were not successful," he said.

Some inmates said the speed with which Jackson was booked

indicated he had actually received preferential treatment, Ryan said. His chiropractor said his shoulder was not dislocated and the pain he suffered, which likely was caused by being handcuffed, was treated successfully by physical therapy.

"Witnesses reported that Mr. Jackson had normal use of his arms immediately after booking, as demonstrated by waving and later in the day by lifting his children and shaking hands through his vehicle window with numerous fans," Ryan said.

Jackson, 45, is scheduled to attend a pretrial hearing on his case Monday in Santa Maria. He is charged with committing a lewd act upon a child, administering an intoxicating agent and conspiring to commit child abduction, false imprisonment and extortion. He has pleaded not guilty and is free on \$3 million bail.

## Heiress Nicky Hilton marries in Las Vegas

**LAS VEGAS (AP)—**Hotel heiress Nicky Hilton married a New York money manager before dawn Sunday in an impromptu ceremony, according to court filings obtained by The Associated Press.

Hilton, 20, married Todd Andrew Meister, 33, at the Las Vegas Wedding Chapel, according to a Clark County marriage license. A woman who answered the phone at the chapel declined to comment.

"Access Hollywood," which first reported the wedding, said older sister Paris Hilton and actress Bijou Phillips were present during the 2:30 a.m. ceremony.

The Hilton sisters were in town for a Stuff magazine

party at the Palms Casino Resort, where they were joined by Meister and Nicole Richie for dinner late Saturday, resort owner George Maloof Jr. said.

Maloof, who confirmed the ceremony had taken place, said the couple gave no indication of their plans.

The group was joined in Las Vegas by friends including former 'NSync member Lance Bass, actress Tara Reid and actor Danny Masterson from "That 70's Show," according to "Entertainment Tonight."

Nicky Hilton, younger sister of "The Simple Life 2" star Paris Hilton, has dabbled in acting, appearing in "Wishman" in 1991 and presenting at MTV award shows.



Nicky Hilton poses in this July 8, 2004 file photo in New York. AP

## Allen takes another stab at theater

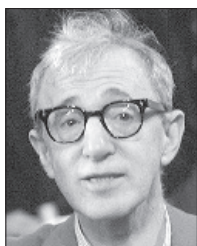
**NEW YORK (AP)—**It's set in Brooklyn in the 1950s, but that's all anyone is saying about the plot of Woody Allen's new play, "A Second Hand Memory," which will have its world premiere in November at off-Broadway's Atlantic Theater Company.

The production, which opens Nov. 22, will be directed by Allen and will feature a cast that includes Michael McKean, currently playing Edna Turnblad

on Broadway in "Hairspray"; Martha Plimpton, and Dominic Chianese, best known for playing Uncle Junior on "The Sopranos."

Preview performances begin Nov. 3.

In May 2003, the Atlantic premiered Allen's last theater effort, a collection of two one-act plays which went under the collective title of "Writer's Block" and starred Paul Reiser, Jay Thomas, Grant Shaud and Bebe Neuwirth.



Allen

## Evanescence singer plays Ark. hometown

**NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—**Singer Amy Lee of the Grammy award-winning rock band Evanescence returned home for the final show of the band's latest tour.

Lee said in an interview Saturday at Alltel Arena, across the Arkansas River from her hometown of Little Rock, that it was a bit "weird" to be home.

"I don't like the attention of 'you're famous so talk to me,'" Lee said. "Well, why do you want to talk to me? Just because you think 'It's going to make me cool.' That's something I don't understand really."

Lee said when she's in Little Rock, many fans ask if she remembers them. She said her family moved around a lot when she was young, but came to Arkansas when she was 12 or 13 years old.

The band's debut album "Fallen" went platinum and earned them two Grammys last year for best new artist and best hard rock performance for the single, "Bring Me to Life."

Evanescence and opening act Seether have been touring since early July.



Lee



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# Pastimes

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Shannon Essenpreis wins Jr. Miss crown

MOBILE, Ala. (AP)—Texan Shannon Essenpreis was crowned America's Junior Miss after belting out a Broadway showtune and soaring through interviews with her "bubbly" personality.

Though Essenpreis was crowned Saturday night, television viewers won't see it until July as producers switch to a "reality TV" format. PAX Network camera crews followed the 50 contestants for two weeks leading up to Saturday's contest.

Essenpreis was among five finalists who were given on-the-spot questions tailored to their individual interests. She was asked how she would use the enthusiasm she's displayed as her school's mascot into her planned career as a broadcast journalist.

"I was so nervous," she said after the show. "And the question was so long that by the end of it, I wasn't sure what they were asking me."

Her answer? She'll report on the positive aspects of life while maintaining her personal optimism.

After the contest, Heisman Trophy winner and Junior Miss judge Herschel Walker said he was particularly impressed with Essenpreis' charm and "bubbly" character in her interview last week. Essenpreis won a \$50,000 scholarship.



# Singh wins Buick Open, outlasting Daly

By LARRY LAGE  
AP SPORTS WRITER

**BUICK GRAND BLANC,**

**Mich.** (AP)—Vijay Singh outlasted John Daly with a 5-under 67 Sunday to win the Buick Open with a 23-under 265 for his fourth victory of the year and 19th of his career. Daly, vying for a second win in one year for the first time, finished a stroke back after shooting a 66 and bogeying the 18th hole.

Tiger Woods started the day three strokes behind Singh, and pulled within a stroke while

shooting a 66. He finished at 21 under, two strokes behind the winner and tied with Carlos Franco (67) for third.

Woods will look to snap his streak without a major at nine in two weeks at the PGA Championship.

Defending champion Jim Furyk, who shared the second-round lead with Singh, finished tied for sixth at 17 under after shooting a 68 on Sunday.

The final round turned into a virtual match-play between Singh and Daly, one of the top golfers in the world against one of the most popular.

Singh's bogey at 18 created an opportunity for Daly to force a playoff, but Daly was unable to take advantage of the break.

Singh is just the third two-time Buick Open champion, and the first since Julius Boros won at Warwick Hills a second time in 1967.

Entering the tournament, Singh had 10 top-10 finishes. But since winning consecutive tournaments three months ago, he has just two top-five finishes and was tied for 28th at the U.S. Open and 20th at the British Open.

The Fijian played well this week after changing his putter,



Vijay Singh of Fiji watches his tee shot on the eighth hole at the Buick Open at Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club in Grand Blanc, Mich., Sunday, Aug. 1, 2004.

going back to a standard putter after using a long one for 2 1/2 years. He also said earlier in the week that he stopped worrying about chasing Woods in the world rankings.

Woods is No. 1 in the world rankings, and Singh is third.

Singh won his seventh straight tournament when he at least shared the lead after 54 holes, dating to the 2002 Shell Houston open.

With Singh, Daly and Woods atop the leaderboard entering the final round, it was a Buick

Open unlike any other.

A sea of fans waiting at the first tee roared when Daly was introduced and just politely clapped for Singh, who seemed to get a kick out of the rock-star like reception for Daly.

As they walked down the first

fairway, Singh patted Daly on the back and both chuckled and shook their heads, fans hooted and hollered best wishes toward Daly in a preview of what was to come over the next four hours.

Singh was wild off the tee at times, but made a handful of shots over and around trees. His first drive landed in the 10th fairway, but unfazed by his blind shot over trees, Singh scrambled well enough to start with a birdie.

And Daly did, too.

Daly made an eagle from 142 yards at the par-4 No. 2, causing the crowd to erupt with applause as he pulled into a tie at 19 under.

He took the lead with a birdie on the third hole and kept a one-shot lead until Singh's birdie at No. 12 knotted them up at 22 under.

Singh went ahead by a shot with a birdie at 14—to reach 23 under—and was able to maintain a one-shot edge the rest of the way.

He got into trouble on the final hole, but his second shot out of the rough landed on the green close enough to set up two-putt, which was just enough to win because Daly missed a makable par putt.

## Lions sign first-round pick Roy Williams



**ALLEN PARK, Mich.** (AP)—Receiver Roy Williams agreed to a five-

year contract with the Detroit Lions on Sunday.

The seventh overall pick in the draft out of Texas, Williams was the lone Lions player who did not report when the team began training camp Friday. He remained in the area while the deal was being negotiated, however, and arrived at camp Sunday afternoon.

He spent the remainder of the day in orientation meetings and video sessions.

"We were able to get this done in about 48 hours," Detroit chief operating officer Tom Lewand said. "We're happy we were able to get it done and get it done quickly."

Williams will be in uniform Monday when the Lions resume practice.

Terms of the contract were not disclosed but the five-year deal is a year shorter than those given to quarterback Joey Harrington and receiver Charles Rogers, the top picks in the 2002 and '03 drafts, respectively. Harrington was taken third overall, while Rogers was the second overall selection.

Williams caught 70 passes for 1,079 yards and nine touchdowns as a senior at Texas last season. He finished his career with 241 catches, 3,866 yards and 36 touchdowns, all of which were school records.

The team hopes he and Rogers can team to give Harrington a tall and speedy receiving tandem to help spark a club that has compiled the NFL's worst record in the last three seasons.

# Brown wants to move past suspensions

By ROY KAMMERER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**COLOGNE, Germany** (AP)—Larry Brown wants to move on. The U.S. Olympic basketball coach said Sunday that the suspension of Allen Iverson, LeBron James and Amare Stoudemire is forgotten. He would rather focus on a tough road trip against some of Europe's top teams leading up the Athens Olympics.

Brown refused to let Iverson, James and Stoudemire play in the team's 96-71 win over Puerto Rico on Saturday, punishment for the trio showing up late for a team meeting.

"It won't happen again. They'll play the next game and some will start," Brown said.

The U.S. squad arrived in Germany on Sunday, shook off the jet lag and held its first practice.

And Brown is having some second thoughts about whether this series of exhibitions, which includes a game against world champion Serbia and Montenegro, is ideal for his team.

That's a switch from last year, when he was eager for the trip after the U.S. team romped through Olympic qualifying in Puerto Rico with a 10-0 record. Since then, however, veterans from that team, including Mike Bibby, Tracy McGrady and Ray Allen, have bailed out.

Now, Brown is drilling the youngest U.S. Olympic team, with an average age of 23.6 years, since NBA players were first allowed into the 1992 Games.



James, Dwyane Wade and Carmelo Anthony may be talented, but they are newcomers to basketball abroad. The team played together just one week, and many players will need a crash course in the different rules of the international game.

Brown thought the team had put all that behind them in Puerto Rico.

"We thought that team would be playing. We thought we had laid the foundation," Brown said. "Now I think maybe we can use the practice."

The U.S. team faces Italy on Tuesday, followed by Germany and Dirk Nowitzki on Wednesday. Then it plays two more away games against Serbia and Montenegro and Turkey, whose NBA players include Utah's Mehmet Okur.

"I hope this trip will competitively toughen us up," Brown said.

Sunday's practice, during which Brown worked on some plays, was a closed session in a sweltering small gym. Only a handful of reporters were let in to watch a late shootaround and talk to the players.

That will be different against Italy and Germany. The NBA stars, often still called "The Dream Team" abroad, have awakened huge interest.

From across the world, the

German organizers of the exhibition game said more than 500 media sought accreditation for the two games, with around 350 gaining approval. That's about a 100 more than followed the U.S. team's training camp in Jacksonville.

While handling the growing hoopla, Brown will have to get his young team used to the international game's wider lanes, the different calls from referees, the shortened 3-point line, along with schooling them in some simple plays.

All that will be needed to offset the American's disadvantage, which proved so costly at the world championships in Indianapolis, where it was beaten three times and finished sixth.

While the U.S. squad has three short weeks to forge a cohesive team, other world powers like Argentina and Serbia and Montenegro have players who have been on the court together for years.

Not that the Americans and their young stars are worried.

Anthony has already boldly predicted a gold medal, while James said he isn't concerned about upholding the American's 24-0 mark since NBA players were allowed in the Olympics.

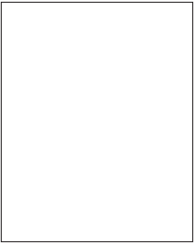
"There's no pressure at all," James said. "If we get better and do our job, we have a great chance of accomplishing our goals."

U.S. coach Larry Brown, right, sends in a play with guard Stephon Marbury during an Olympic tuneup against Puerto Rico, Saturday, July 31, 2004, in Jacksonville, Fla. The U.S. team won 96-71.







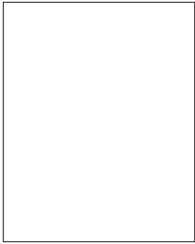


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# Sports

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